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Agenda item 129

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 17th, 18th and 22nd meetings, on 7, 11 and 24 December 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.17, 18 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/67/529 and Corr.1);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/625).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.13

4. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015" (A/C.5/67/L.13), submitted by the Chair.

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.13 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Consideration of draft decision A/C.5/67/L.20

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/67/L.20), submitted by the Chair.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/67/L.20 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Recognizing that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, while ensuring that such resources are adequate for the fulfilment of the objectives, programmes and activities of the Organization, as mandated by the relevant legislative bodies of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[1] and the recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

4. *Expresses* its full respect for the authority and the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General not to take any measures that do not respect the prerogatives of the General Assembly;

6. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

7. *Also reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

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[1] A/67/529 and Corr.1.

[2] A/67/625.

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

8. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, when preparing the budget, to carefully evaluate and consider the entire quantum of resources necessary to carry out the programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly and other organs;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 5,392,672,400 United States dollars at revised 2012-2013 rates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when making proposals for savings in the programme budget, to ensure the fair, equitable and non-selective treatment of all budget sections;

12. *Decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2014-2015 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 12 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015;

14. *Recognizes* the need for measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, with a view to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with political, economic and social issues;

15. *Recognizes*, furthermore, that efforts to achieve savings and the efficient utilization of resources constitute an ongoing process and should not adversely affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

16. *Notes* that the budget proposal will reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to rigorously pursue this in accordance with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[3] and established practices;

17. *Reiterates* its request contained in paragraph 15 of its resolution 65/262, and requests the Secretary-General to include a summary of initiatives aimed at improving cost-effectiveness as well as information on the resources actually or expected to be freed up by their implementation;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his proposed programme budget for 2014-2015, proposals stemming from a comprehensive review of the staffing requirements for the Organization, to ensure that staffing reflects best practices and is appropriate to effectively implement mandates;

19. *Stresses* that the contingency fund should be used in strict accordance with paragraph 9 of annex I to resolution 41/213 and paragraph 3 of section C of the annex to resolution 42/211;

20. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 40,445,043 United States dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate, and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

[3] ST/SGB/2000/8.

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

A

The General Assembly decides to defer until the first part of its resumed sixty-seventh session consideration of the following documents:

Item 129
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict[1]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2]

Item 130
Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Report of the Secretary-General on the organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework[3]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[4]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on business continuity in the United Nations system[5]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[6]

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the Department of Safety and Security[7]

Report of the Secretary-General on the use of private security[8]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[9]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships[10]

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[1] A/67/312-S/2012/645.
[2] A/67/583.
[3] A/67/266.
[4] A/67/608.
[5] A/67/83.
[6] A/67/83/Add.1.
[7] A/67/526.
[8] A/67/539.
[9] A/67/624.
[10] A/67/165 and Corr.1.

Item 135
Human resources management

Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of human resources management reform: towards a global, dynamic and adaptable workforce[11]

Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of human resources management reform: towards a global, dynamic and adaptable workforce: mobility[12]

Report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Rules[13]

Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat: staff demographics[14]

Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat: gratis personnel, retired staff and consultants and individual contractors[15]

Report of the Secretary-General on the practice of the Secretary-General in disciplinary matters and possible criminal behaviour, 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012[16]

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Ethics Office[17]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[18]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on staff-management relations within the United Nations[19]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[20]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management of sick leave in the United Nations system[21]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of the Medical Service in the United Nations system[23]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[24]

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[11] A/67/324.
[12] A/67/324/Add.1.
[13] A/67/99 and Corr.1.
[14] A/67/329.
[15] A/67/329/Add.1.
[16] A/67/171 and Corr.1.
[17] A/67/306.
[18] A/67/545.
[19] A/67/136.
[20] A/67/136/Add.1.
[21] A/67/337.
[22] A/67/337/Add.1.
[23] A/66/327.
[24] A/66/327/Add.1.

Item 137
United Nations common system

Report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2012[25]

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly concerning the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2012[26]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[27]

Item 140
Reports on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012[28]

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the proposal on the dissemination and distribution of audit reports[29]

Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012[30]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the investigation function in the United Nations system[31]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon[32]

B

The General Assembly decides to defer until the main part of its sixty-eighth session consideration of the following documents:

Item 130
Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions[33]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[34]

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[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/67/30) and Corr.1.
[26] A/C.5/67/3.
[27] A/67/573.
[28] A/67/297 (Part I) and Add.1.
[29] A/66/674.
[30] A/67/259 and Corr.1 and 2.
[31] A/67/140.
[32] A/67/140/Add.1.
[33] A/66/340.
[34] A/66/7/Add.21.